

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 as being indefinite and lacking of enablement. The Examiner also objected to the drawings.

Claims 1-24 have been amended to clarify the claims. The applicant would note that a "symbol holding a place" simply refers to a symbol in a position in a sequence of ordered symbols. For example, the symbol "holding a place" may be the third symbol in a sequence of 8 symbols. The technique used for modification of the ordered symbols may be any suitable technique, such as run length encoding. The applicant would note that FIG. 3 illustrates the symbol modification, which may be any suitable technique.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-24 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsang in view of Hauck.

Tsang relates to general encoding and decoding system for data blocks.

Hauck relates to a compression device, which uses both run length encoding and statistical encoding.

The claims have been amended to patentably distinguish over Tsang in view of Hauck by claiming a method of processing an image comprising a plurality of bit planes, wherein each of the bit planes include a plurality of ordered symbol sequences, a symbol holding a place in each of the plurality of sequences for the plurality of bit planes such that the image is compressed in a manner reducing the number of bits representing the image.

In contrast, neither Tsang nor Hauck teach the use of a plurality of bit planes and performing the compression on separate bit planes.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 1.

Claim 7 patentably distinguishes over Tsang in view of Hauck by claiming a method of processing an image comprising a plurality of bit planes, wherein each of the bit planes include a plurality of ordered symbol sequences. Further, claim 7 claims processing a symbol holding a place in a first of the bit planes the plurality of sequences with a first process

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and second process such that the number of bits representing said first bit plane is reduced and retaining the result of one of the first and second processes.

In contrast, neither Tsang nor Hauck teach the use of a plurality of bit planes and performing two separate processes for the same symbols.

Claims 8-12 depend from claim 7 and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 7.

Claim 13 patentably distinguishes over Tsang in view of Hauck by claiming a method of processing an image that includes partitioning a plurality of said ordered symbol sequences into a plurality of bit planes each of which includes a plurality of symbols holding a place in plurality of said sequences. Claim 13 further claims processing the symbols of the plurality of bit planes in such a manner that the image is compressed in a manner reducing the number of bits representing the image.

In contrast, neither Tsang nor Hauck teach the use of a plurality of bit planes and performing the compression on separate bit planes.

Claims 14-24 depend from claim 13 and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 13.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to allowance. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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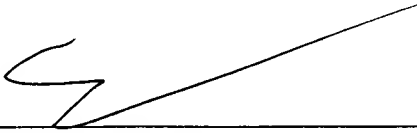
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